

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 05672 072216Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /036 W

-----080355Z 104445 /21

R 072019Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO USDOC WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 7922

UNCLAS CARACAS 5672

PASS TO OED/MEPD AND OIM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, VE

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: ORINOCO RIVER BRIDGE

REF: (A) CARACAS 2140, (B) CARACAS 4637,  
(C) CARACAS 5635

1. THERE HAS BEEN A RECURRING RUMOR THAT THIS PROJECT WOULD BE DROPPED BECAUSE OF ITS EXPENSE. INSTEAD, THE RAILROAD WOULD BE TERMINATED AT THE NORTH BANK OF THE ORINOCO RIVER AND STEEL PRODUCTS WOULD BE BARGED ACROSS THE RIVER FROM THE STEEL PLANT AT CIUDAD GUAYANA. APPARENTLY A WORLD BANK STUDYTEAM SO RECOMMENDED.

THIS MAY WELL BE THE PORTION OF THE OVERALL RAILROAD PROJECT WHICH IS TO BE SCALED DOWN AS MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION VIVAS CASANOVA HAS BEEN SAYING LATELY. (SEE CARACAS 5635).

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RAILROAD INSTITUTE HAS BEEN ACTING AS IF THIS PROJECT WILL GO FORWARD AND LYON LUCHESSI ON TWO OCCASIONS HAS DESCRIBED THIS AS A MALICIOUS RUMOR WHILE DENYING THAT ANY CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO DROPPING THE BRIDGE WHICH HE CONSIDERS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE OVERALL PROJECT.

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LIKEWISE, INDIRECT EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THE CANADIAN CONSORTIUM HAS BEEN TOLD TO PROCEED WITH ENGINEERING THE RAILROAD TO LINK WITH THE ORINOCO RIVER BRIDGE.

3. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT CLARIFY MATTERS BUT SUGGST MEPD ADVISE DAMES AND MOORE, DRAVO, AND U.S. STEEL TO CONTACT RAILROAD INSTITUTE DIRECTLY.

VAKY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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